

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3743  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006  
EQUALITY AND DIGNITY OF WORK FORCE  
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) the recommendations made by various International Organisations including Anti-Slavery International Human Rights Watch, UN Human Rights Committee etc. regarding improvement in the general conditions of work to protect the equality and dignity of workforce; and

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): According to the information received from the Ministry of External Affairs, the main multilateral organization dealing with issues of the workforce is the International Labour Organisation

(ILO). India has so far ratified 40 Conventions. Human Rights Watch and Anti Slavery International are Civil Society Organisations. The Human Rights Committee (HRC) is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by its State Parties. The HRC, while considering India's periodic report in 1997 had recommended, inter-alia, for conducting study for identification and eradication of bonded labour and taking urgent steps for removal of all children from hazardous occupations.

For identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is in operation under which financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 20,000/- per bonded labour is provided for rehabilitation, which is shared by the Central and State Governments on 50:50 ratio basis. In case of North-Eastern States, 100% Central assistance is provided. In addition, Central assistance under the Scheme is provided to the State Governments for conducting surveys of Bonded Labour, awareness generation activities and evaluatory studies. So far about 2.67 lakh-bonded labourers have been rehabilitated and central assistance of Rs. 68.75 crore have been provided for their rehabilitation. In addition, Rs. 4.20 crore have been provided to States for undertaking surveys etc.

In case of eradication of child labour in hazardous occupations, a sequential approach has been adopted. So far 15 occupations and 57 processes have been declared as hazardous under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, where employment of child labour is prohibited.